

Appl. No. 09/846,582
Reply to Office action of January 5, 2005
Docket. No.: 006.0070 (50028.01US01)

REMARKS

In the January 5, 2005 Office Action, claims 11-18 were rejected, claims 1-10 were allowed, and claims 19-20 were deemed objectionable. This Response amends claim 11 to clarify certain aspects of the invention, and amends claim 19 to convert it into independent form without altering its scope. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 11-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito, USPN 5,745,092 (hereinafter "Ito") in view of Raymond Becky, USPN 4,462,069 (hereinafter "Becky"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation to modify a reference or to combine the teachings of multiple references. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Third, the prior art must teach or suggest all of the recited claim limitations. Of course, the teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in Applicant's disclosure. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has not met all of the above criteria.

Ito discloses an LCD power supply circuit that includes a variable resistor 70 connected in series with a voltage divider 90 for simultaneous adjustment of a number of source voltages (see FIG. 2 and related description in Ito). Notably, the variable resistor 70 and voltage divider 90 are configured to adjust the respective input signals to a plurality of amplifiers, numbered 76-80 in Ito's FIG. 2, and the respective amplifier output signals are used "as-is" for the source voltages for the signal driver element (see FIG. 1 and related description in Ito). In addition, the Office Action relies upon Becky for its teaching of a voltage dividing network having shunted resistances, and concludes that it would have been obvious to combine the voltage dividing network of Becky with the LCD power supply circuit of Ito.

Independent claim 11 has been amended to clarify that the recited voltage divider circuit is connected to the output of the amplifier in the LCD device. In this manner, the recited voltage divider circuit when adjusted alters the amplifier output signal, which in turn adjusts the LCD contrast. Applicant's FIG. 1 provides support for this amendment and no new matter has been introduced. In contrast to amended claim 11, the voltage divider of Ito is connected to the

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input of a plurality of amplifiers. Accordingly, the proposed combination of Ito and Becky does not teach or suggest all of the recited limitations of claim 11. Therefore, for at least this reason, independent claim 11 and claims 12-18, which variously depend from claim 11, are not unpatentable over Ito in view of Becky, and Applicant requests the withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claims 11-18.

The Office Action indicated that claims 19 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this regard, amended claim 19 represents a combination of original independent claim 11 and original dependent claim 19 (the scope of amended claim 19 is the same as original dependent claim 19). Accordingly, claim 19 and claim 20, which depends from claim 19, are now in allowable form.

In conclusion, for the reasons given above, all claims now presently in the application are believed allowable. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at (480) 385-5060.

If for some reason Applicant has not requested a sufficient extension and/or has not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment on this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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